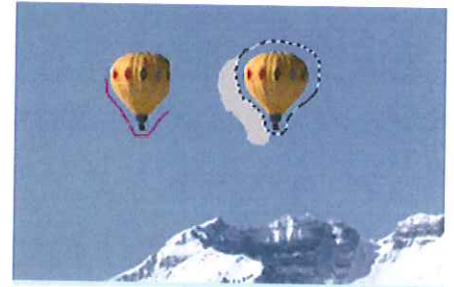


1a. PHOTOSHOP - Magnetic Lasso

The lasso tool creates a custom, free-hand selection. It is usually used to cut out, or select specific sections of a pre-existing picture. Use the lasso tool by clicking on the icon located on the tool bar, or press the keyboard shortcut L. Select part of an image by carefully clicking around the area required. Notice this tool isn't capable of precision; there are alternative methods that are more precise at selecting sections of an image.



The magnetic lasso tool exists as an additional secondary tool to the lasso tool. Select this tool by pressing **shift+L** and toggling through until the selector rests on the magnetic lasso tool selection. This tool is unique as it identifies a contrast in an image and is draw to that contrasting point creating a selection as you briefly **drag** the mouse about the object of desire.



This tool works best when there is a huge contrast between objects in the foreground of the photo or objects in the background. Simply click near the high-contrast edge and the lasso tool snuggles right up against the edge as you drag the mouse cursor along the line of contrast.



How it works is, as you drag the mouse Photoshop places *points* of selection about the image. At any time clicking along the edge will place a point. This way you can sort of help Photoshop along with the selection. Sometimes these points placed by Photoshop can get out of hand, pressing **Delete - Del** will *undo* misplaced points and you may continue dragging the mouse as Photoshop makes the selection for you.

This is a very handy tool but takes time to master.

Use the option bar at the top of the stage to aide you in your mastery.

The first input box is title *width* this box allows you to change the number of pixels the magnetic lasso tool takes into account for finding contrast. Use a large pixel value for high contrast areas and a lower pixel value for tight low contrast areas. The number of pixels here can be increased or decreased using the keyboard shortcuts of **]** and **[** - the square bracket keys.

Next is the *contrast* edge amount which is a percentage that is taken into consideration as you drag the mouse cursor about the selection. Photoshop will use this percentage to help calculate the selection. Adjust this setting if the *width* adjustment doesn't cut it.

The *frequency* box determines how often points are placed as you continue to drag the mouse cursor. An integer between 1 and 100 is required. A setting of 100 is the highest setting creating pin points faster than you can delete them.